

# DAILY PT POINTERS

22<sup>nd</sup> March , 2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu-Environment-Page 14

### SC forms expert panel to balance Bustard conservation with sustainable energy goals

The remit of the panel would be to determine the scope, extent and feasibility of underground and overhead electric lines in areas identified as priority spots for the birds in Rajasthan and Gujarat

March 22, 2024 01:45 am | Updated 01:45 am IST - NEW DELHI

THE HINDU BUREAU



READ LATER PRINT



#### News

- The Supreme Court has formed an **expert panel** to balance the **Great Indian Bustard** bird conservation with sustainable energy goals.

**Scientific Name:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*

- One of the **heaviest flying birds** endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- State Bird of **Rajasthan**.

#### Habitat:

- Arid grasslands.
- A Maximum number of GIBs are found in Jaisalmer and the Indian Army-controlled field firing range near Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- Other areas: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

#### Protection Status:

IUCN Status: **Critically Endangered**.

Listed in Wildlife Protection Act's Schedule 1.

## The Hindu-Health/S&T-Page 20

### 'Timely treatment can limit disability in children with Juvenile Arthritis'

Serena Josephine M.

Another World Young Rheumatic Disease Day (WORD Day) went by (on March 18) with experts drawing attention to raising awareness and knowledge to help in the early diagnosis of rheumatic diseases among young people. Lack of awareness and delayed diagnosis remains a cause of concern for specialists.

Narendra Bagri, additional professor, Division of Paediatric Rheumatology, Department of Paediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi laid emphasis on prompt diagnosis and timely treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) to prevent complications as well as the need to increase awareness in the community.

JIA, he said, is a broad spectrum of inflammatory arthritis encompassing various subtypes and is the most common paediatric

are involved) is more common in the western world, while enthesitis-related arthritis characterised by pain over heels and lower back pain is the common subtype in the Indian subcontinent accounting for nearly one-third or more of cases," he said.

Though there is a lack of a national registry, given the population of the country, a sizeable number of children with arthritis suffer from JIA, he said.

#### Symptoms, treatments

Children often present with joint pain and swelling with functional limitations such as limping, he said, adding: "the symptoms are more pronounced in the morning when they get up from bed or after a long period of rest. This phenomenon of morning stiffness may be reported by older children, while smaller kids may find it difficult to express. However, parents must look out for poor activity levels



There is a window of opportunity early in the course of the disease, during which appropriate management improves outcomes. GETTY IMAGES

For example, involvement of joints of the lower limbs (knee, ankle) and lower back (sacroiliitis) may impair walking, while wrist joint and upper limb involvement would affect writing. The temporomandibular joint (jaw joint) can lead to a difficulty in open

pain where the ligament or tendon originate (known as enthesitis). This may manifest as heel pain. Fever, rash and redness of the eyes may be other accompanying features, depending on the subtype of JIA. Young children with JIA can also develop asymptomatic

rheumatic disorders, such as childhood lupus and juvenile dermatomyositis, which might be identified by a peculiar skin rash.

Numerous drugs are now available for the management of JIA. "Unlike in the past, the current era has challenged the therapeutic nihilism clouding the treatment of these disorders. Today, there are many effective drugs for the treatment of JIA. Broadly, the drugs used are steroids (intra-articular - injected locally in the joint or in some cases, prescribed systemically), disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or newer drugs such as biologics. As these drugs modulate the heightened immune system that causes arthritis, and may have side effects, they must be used under the close supervision of a physician, and self-prescription is a strict no," Dr. Bagri said.

#### Effective drugs

effective, they are still out of reach for the common man and hence, there is a need for a collective effort to ensure their availability," he said.

Studies demonstrate that there is a window of opportunity early in the course of the disease during which appropriate management improves outcomes.

A paper has been written on factors that predict a visit to a paediatric rheumatologist within 3 months, or periodic reviews. It is titled: "Factors impacting referral of JIA patients to a tertiary level paediatric rheumatology centre in North India: a retrospective cohort study in Paediatric Rheumatology by Manjari Agarwal et al." It found these factors to include: proximity to the doctor, family history of inflammatory disease, history of fever, history of acute uveitis (inflammation in the eye) or a high ESR, indicating inflammation in

increase the number of centres with paediatric rheumatologists and to improve medical insurance coverage

In addition to drugs, physiotherapy is also an integral pillar for the management of JIA.

"With effective and timely treatment, the burden of disability in these children can be curtailed to a minimum and a functionally independent adulthood can be ensured."

However, there are a number of challenges; one of the most important being the lack of awareness about these disorders in the community.

"People often are not aware of the fact that rheumatic disorders can affect kids too. Another alarming concern is delayed diagnosis as many of these children may display slow development of the disease, which may delay seeking of appropriate medical advice. Additionally, they

tious arthritis. Infections are common in our settings, but the pattern of arthritis in children with JIA is usually different from infectious arthritis, such as tubercular arthritis (not every chronic arthritis is tubercular). So, it is pivotal to ascertain the cause of arthritis before initiating treatment," he elaborated.

Better awareness of JIA and its symptoms among primary care providers could help in streamlining the referral pattern of children. They should be managed by a team comprising paediatric rheumatologists, physiotherapists, ophthalmologists and other physicians.

The consequence of an untreated and prolonged illness would be a permanent disability, the extent of which would depend on the subtype of JIA. Apart from limb-threatening complications, systemic JIA can have serious life-threatening complications as well, he said.

## News

- Timely treatment can limit disability in children with **Juvenile Arthritis.**

## About

- Juvenile arthritis, often referred to as JA, is an umbrella term for a group of **chronic autoimmune diseases** characterized by joint inflammation.
- The body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own cells and tissues. However, the exact causes of this condition remain elusive.
- JA can impact children ranging from toddlers to teenagers.

## Symptoms and diagnosis

- **Morning stiffness and joint inflammation.**
- It may also lead to eye inflammation, resulting in blurred vision, dryness, or conjunctivitis.

## Treatment

- Juvenile arthritis cannot be prevented, and there is no cure for it.

## Indian Express-Space-Page 9

### Nation's 2nd pvt rocket launch postponed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE SUB-ORBITAL launch of India's second privately developed rocket, which was scheduled for Friday early morning, has been postponed.

A day ahead of the launch, Agnikul Cosmos, the IIT-Madras incubated startup, said: "Holding our launch out of an abundance of caution based on certain minor observations from the full count-down rehearsals last night. Will keep you all posted on the new date and time. Thanks a lot for all the support that has been pouring in." The SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SORTeD) is a single stage rocket that would test the company's AgniLet engine in a real flight. A sub-orbital launch takes the payloads to space or close to it but cannot push it into an orbit around the Earth. This was a much anticipated launch, with the launch vehicle using a 3D printed

engine. Most launch vehicles are manufactured in parts and then assembled ahead of the launch, however, 3D printing will ensure that Agnikul's rocket engine comes in one piece.

Another significant thing about the launch is that it would use the first private launch platform that the company has set up at the country's only spaceport at Sriharikota. And, the use of this platform also means that the rocket will not utilise guiderails to determine its lift-off trajectory. Instead, Agnibaan SORTeD will lift off vertically and follow a pre-determined trajectory.

It is expected to reach the height of around 20 km and then splash back down to Earth. To compare, commercial airplanes fly at a height of around 10 km.

The only other private company to have undertaken a sub-orbital flight was Skyroot Aerospace in 2022. They are likely to undertake their first orbital flight this year.

## News

- The launch of AgniKul “**Agnibaan SORTeD**” has been postponed due to technical issues.

## About

- Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited was incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras (IIT-Madras). It builds dedicated, fully customizable & transportable launch vehicles for small satellites to Low Earth Orbits (LEO) called Agnibaan.
- The launch vehicle- Agnibaan is powered by a single-piece 3D-printed engine that can be made in 72 hours without any human intervention.
- It is compatible with the mobile launchpad called “Dhanush” which makes the launch location-agnostic.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: IR

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum organized in New Delhi

SCO Startup Forum to catalyze innovation and collaboration among startups

Posted On: 21 MAR 2024 1:38PM by PIB Delhi



- The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized on 19th March 2024 in New Delhi.
- The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organization, comprising Member States namely **India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.**

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**PIB: IR**

Ministry of Communications

## International Telecommunication Union elects India as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board

Various initiatives pertaining to scaling up ITU Area Office India, Digital Innovation Board, Digital Transformation Lab, Acceleration centres, Global Innovation Centre in India were agreed upon

Continuation of Indo-Japan Joint Working Group in the areas of Cyber Security, ORAN, Quantum and other emerging areas of technology

India and Bahrain decide to collaborate actively on ICT sector in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, 5G use cases, Cybersecurity and developing Data Embassy

Posted On: 21 MAR 2024 6:10PM by PIB Delhi



## News

- International Telecommunication Union elected India as co-chair of its Digital Innovation Board.

## About

- ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- The Organization is made up of a membership of 193 Member States and more than 1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations.
- Headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**, and with regional offices on every continent.
- ITU is the oldest agency in the UN family – connecting the world since the dawn of the telegraph in 1865.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air: IR

## India Launches Operation Indravati To Evacuate Its Nationals From Haiti To Dominican Republic



- India has launched **Operation Indravati** to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- India **doesn't have** an embassy in **Haiti**
- 12 Indians have been evacuated.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB: Defence

Ministry of Defence

INDIA - MOZAMBIQUE - TANZANIA TRILATERAL EXERCISE IMT TRILAT- 2024

Posted On: 21 MAR 2024 6:21PM by PIB Delhi



### News

- INS Tir and INS Sujata will participate in the second edition of the **India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Tri-Lateral (TRILAT) Exercise**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from 21-29 Mar 24.

### About

- The exercise aims at capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices, enhancing interoperability, and strengthening maritime cooperation.
- The first edition of the IMT TRILAT exercise was conducted in Oct 2022